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JUL 14 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Facsimile Cover Sheet

Date: July 12, 2004

To: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission

Facsimile: 866-418-0232

From: Bonnie Wong
Asian Women In Business

Pages Including Cover Page: 3

Comments:

**ASIAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS****RECEIVED**

JUL 14 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

July 12, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of Asian Women in Business (AWIB), which represents thousands of businesses owned and operated by Asian American women, I am writing to express my concern that the FCC may increase the costs of pre-paid telephone calling cards by imposing new charges and fees.

Asian women own over 358,000 private businesses nationwide, and a substantial number of these businesses are in the retail sector. These retail enterprises can be as modest as a convenience store to a sophisticated on-line retailing operation. In addition, one of the fastest-growing areas of Asian and Pacific Islander-owned businesses is in the transport, communications and utilities sector, which increased 56% from 1997 to 2002.

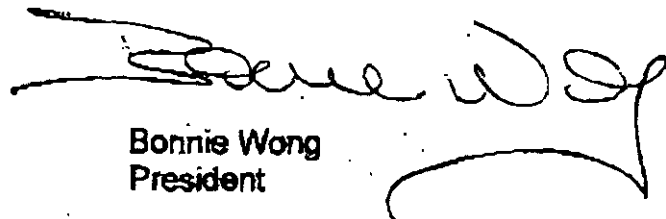
Pre-paid calling cards are an important product line for some of these women-owned retail and telecommunications business, and these products are important for their customers. Ten percent of Asian-American households have used pre-paid calling cards to stay in touch with friends and families. For many Asian-Americans on tight budgets, pre-paid calling cards are an important method of budgeting telecommunications expenses, especially among those individuals more comfortable with cash-based transactions.

I understand that the FCC is considering changing its policies in a way that would impose new and higher fees and charges on these pre-paid calling cards. I am not clear as to the precise way you are going about this, but the end result would directly harm consumers by raising the cost of purchasing the cards.

358 FIFTH AVENUE • SUITE 504
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
TEL: 212/869-1388 • FAX: 212/868-1373
INFO@AWIB.ORG • WWW.AWIB.ORG

Quite simply, driving up the cost of pre-paid communications would have an immediate impact upon the Asian-American community. I strongly urge you to keep the FCC's current policies in place and not assess these new fees and charges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Wong", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bonnie Wong
President

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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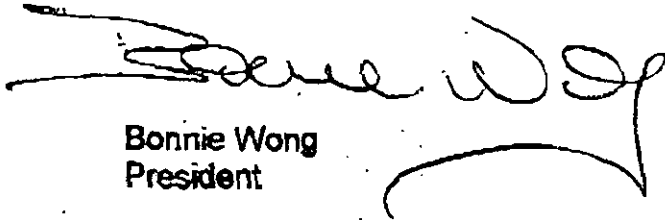
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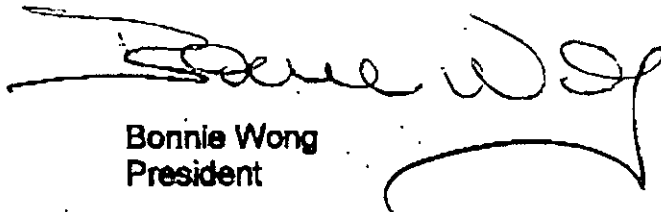
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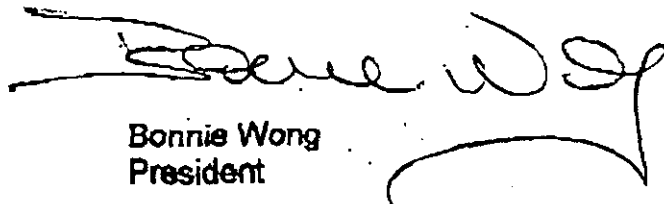
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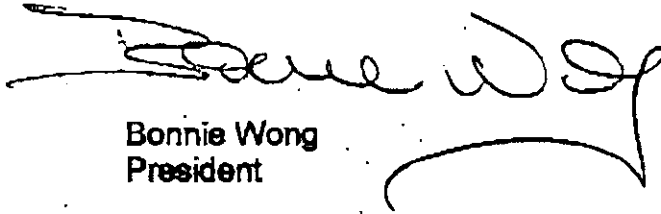
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